

Serial No. 10/606,629

Filed: June 26, 2003

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The listing of Claims will replace all prior versions and listings of the Claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

1. – 23. (Canceled)

24. (Previously Presented) A method for communicating driver specific information of a driver of a rental vehicle, the method comprising:

moving a rental vehicle within a communication zone of a short-range radio transceiver;

triggering establishment of temporary communication between the short-range radio transceiver and a navigational unit included in the rental vehicle in response to entry into the communication zone;

transferring driver specific information of a driver assigned to the rental vehicle to the navigation unit via the short-range radio transceiver in response to establishment of temporary communication, where the driver specific information includes driver data, an intended destination of the driver and a vehicle setting to set a vehicle operator interface of the rental vehicle for the driver; and

transferring additional driver specific information from the rental vehicle with the short-range radio transceiver in response to control and operation of the rental vehicle by the driver, where the additional driver specific information includes vehicle operational data and the time the rental vehicle was taken by the driver;

maneuvering the rental vehicle out of the communication zone;

re-entering the communication zone at a later time;

triggering transmittal of a navigation coordinate indicative of a drop off point for the rental vehicle and a return time of the rental vehicle in response to re-entry; and

automatically generating navigation instructions from the navigation coordinate indicative of a drop off point to guide the driver to the drop off point.

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25. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 24, where maneuvering the rental vehicle out of the communication zone comprises:

storing in the navigation unit additional driver specific information that includes at least one of a navigational coordinate and a vehicle interface setting while out of the communication zone; and

triggering further comprises: triggering transfer of the additional driver specific information from the navigational unit with the short-range radio transceiver in response to re-entry into the communication zone.

26. (Original) The method of claim 24, where transferring driver specific information comprises automatically applying a vehicle interface setting to the vehicle operator interface of the rental vehicle, where the vehicle operator interface includes at least one of audio settings, seat position settings, mirror position settings, cabin temperature settings, radio tuner sound quality settings and radio tuner radio station settings.

27. (Original) The method of claim 26, where automatically applying a vehicle interface setting comprises selecting a radio tuner radio station setting to apply to a radio tuner included in the rental vehicle as a function of the intended destination.

28. (Original) The method of claim 24, where transferring driver specific information comprises converting the intended destination to driving instructions for the driver.

29. (Original) The method of claim 24, where the intended destination comprises a plurality of navigation coordinates indicative of a plurality of destinations and transferring driver specific information includes determining one of the destinations has been designated as a first destination and automatically displaying navigation information to the first destination on a navigation radio.

30. (Canceled)

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31. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 24, where trigger transmittal of a navigation coordinate comprises transmitting to the navigation unit an updated status of a scheduled passenger travel plan reservation of the driver and displaying the updated status.

32. (Previously Presented) A system for communicating driver specific information of a driver of a fleet vehicle, the system comprising:

means for storing driver specific information that includes a navigation coordinate of an intended destination of the driver and an assignment of the driver to a fleet vehicle;

a short-range radio transceiver coupled with the means for storing driver specific information;

a fleet vehicle that includes means for providing navigational directions to the driver, the means for storing driver specific information operable to communicate with the means for providing navigational directions via the short-range radio transceiver in response to entry of the fleet vehicle into a communication zone of the short-range radio transceiver,

where the means for storing driver specific information is operable to transmit the navigation coordinate of the intended destination to the means for providing navigational directions upon confirmation of identity of the fleet vehicle during a first entry into the communication zone; and

where the means for storing driver specific information is further operable to transmit a navigation coordinate indicative of a drop off point for the fleet vehicle in response to re-entry of the fleet vehicle into the communication zone, and

where the means for providing navigational directions to the driver is operable to automatically generating navigation instructions from the navigation coordinate indicative of a drop off point to guide the driver to the drop off point.

33. (Original) The system of claim 32, wherein the means for storing driver specific information comprises a fleet management application, a data store and a user interface.

34. (Original) The system of claim 32, wherein the means for providing navigational directions comprises a global positioning system, a vehicle data store, a navigation radio and a vehicle interface.

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35. – 45. (Canceled)

46. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 24, where the communication zone is the immediate area around an entrance gate and an exit gate of a rental car facility.